

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1444

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/80

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, EMIN, ENRG, NATO

SUBJECT: NAC MEETING MARCH 15, 1974, AGENDA ITEM IV: ROUND TABLE
ON THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF SIBERIA

REF: A) USNATO 1329; B) STATE 51729

SUMMARY: DURING BRIEF COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON SYMPOSIUM, RUMSFELD AND LOGAN (UK) BOTH NOTED REPORT CONTAINED INACCURACIES WHICH WOULD SOMEHOW HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH, TO AVOID CONFUSION, PARTICULARLY IF IT EVENTUALLY AGREED TO PUBLISH SYMPOSIUM RESULTS. ON THE BASIS OF RECOMMENDATION BY CATALANO (ITALY) THAT SYMPOSIUM PAPERS AND CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY BE PUBLISHED AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, ASYG PANSA CONCLUDED THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT FOR PUBLICATION WITH A DISCLAIMER OF NATO RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIEWS EXPRESSED PROVIDED SUMMARY COULD BE REDRAFTED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF INACCURATE DATA AND STATEMENTS. US SAID IT WAS STILL STUDYING PAPERS AND SUMMARY AND WOULD HAVE COMMENTS OF A TECHNICAL AND FACTUAL NATURE TO PRESENT IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. COUNCIL AGREED TO US SUGGESTION THAT EN-
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TIRE QUESTION BE DEALT WITH BY THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. END
SUMMARY.

1. ASYG PANSA SAID THAT ECONOMIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT REGARDING

ROUND TABLE ON SIBERIAN NATURAL RESOURCES (C-M74)14) WAS SUBMITTED ONLY FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL AS AN INTERESTING COMMENTARY ON THE ROLE OF SIBERIA IN PROVIDING RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY OIL. WHILE PREVIOUS SYMPOSIA HAS RESULTED IN NATO PUBLICATIONS, PANSAC CONTINUED, THIS QUESTION HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED THIS YEAR, AND THE ECONOMIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT SHOULD STILL BE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL.

2. RUMSFELD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT WHILE THE DOCUMENT WAS NOT PUBLIC IT WAS BEING CIRCULATED WITHIN GOVERNMENTS. WASHINGTON, HE SAID, WAS STILL STUDYING THE ECONOMIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND THE SYMPOSIUM PAPERS, AND THAT WE WOULD SOON HAVE COMMENTS OF A TECHNICAL AND FACTUAL NATURE TO PRESENT IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. RUMSFELD RECALLED THAT IN THE PAST, PEOPLE READING SYMPOSIA PUBLICATIONS HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED WERE THOSE OF THE ALLIANCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IF THE RESULTS OF THIS YEAR'S SYMPOSIUM ARE PUBLISHED THERE WOULD BE A DISCLAIMER OF NATO ASSOCIATION WITH THE CONTENTS. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MAY BE A GOOD SUMMARY OF THE SYMPOSIUM AND IT MAY BE ACCURATELY REPORTING PAPERS, DISCUSSIONS THEMSELVES CONTAIN INACCURACIES. FOR EXAMPLE, RUMSFELD SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY URANIUM MINES IN SIBERIA AS IMPLIED IN PART II OF THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER SOME METHOD TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM OF INACCURACIES AND AVOID POSSIBLE CONFUSION BY READERS WHETHER PUBLISHED OR NOT.

3. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) SAID THAT THE US WAS ENTIRELY CORRECT, AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE A NOTE TO COVER THE PROBLEM OF INACCURACIES IN THE SYMPOSIUM RESULTS. HE ADDED THAT ANY PUBLICATION SHOULD HAVE AN INTRODUCTION CLEARLY DISASSOCIATING NATO FROM THE VIEWS EXPRESSED. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY HOW THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT WOULD RELATE TO ANY SYMPOSIUM PAPERS.

4. ECONOMIC DIRECTOR LAULAN EXPLAINED THAT ON TWO PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

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OCCASIONS NATO HAD PUBLISHED WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS THE SYMPOSIUM PAPERS TOGETHER WITH A SYNOPOSIS PREPARED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF ILLUMINATING POINTS RAISED IN THE PAPERS. THE AIM THIS YEAR, HE SAID, WAS TO FOLLOW THIS PRECEDENT, AND THAT HIS REPORT WOULD BE THE SYMPOSIUM SUMMARY. PANSAC NOTED THAT THE SITUATION WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERING THIS YEAR, INASMUCH AS THE SUBJECT MATTER WAS MORE SENSITIVE, AND THE ALLIANCE HAD AGREED TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT PUBLICITY AND PUBLICATION.

5. CATALANO (ITALY) SAID HE COULD TAKE NOTE OF THE ECONOMIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT, BUT WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY IT. HE AGREED THAT PUBLICATIONS ON PAST SYMPOSIA HAD CAUSED NO PROBLEMS, AND RECOM-

MENDED A PUBLICATION THIS YEAR WITH THE PRECAUTIONS NOTED
BY THE US AND BELGIUM.

6. LOGAN (UK) SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT AGREE WITH
CERTAIN FIGURES IN THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, AND THAT THIS PROBLEM
WOULD REMAIN WHETHER IT WAS PUBLISHED OR NOT. HE RECOGNIZED
THAT THE REPORT WAS MERELY A SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS BY
PARTICIPANTS IN THE SYMPOSIUM, ONE OF WHOM WAS FROM BRITISH
PETROLEUM. HOWEVER, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WANT IT MADE CLEAR,
WHATEVER USE IS MADE OF THE REPORT, THAT THE FIGURES IT CONTAINS
ARE PERSONAL ESTIMATES AND IN SOME CASES MERELY WILD GUESSES.
LOGAN ALSO MENTIONED THAT ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT OF THE SYMPOSIUM
WAS SIBERIAN NATURAL RESOURCES, THE PAPERS AND DISCUSSION CON-
CENTRATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON ENERGY RESOURCES. THE UK WOULD
HAVE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN GREATER ATTENTION PAID TO OTHER
IMPORTANT RESOURCES SUCH AS COPPER, NICKEL, AND GOLD.

7. ATTEMPTING TO SUM UP, PANSA SAID THERE SEEMED TO BE CONSIDERABLE
SENTIMENT THAT A REPORT ON THE SYMPOSIUM SHOULD EVENTUALLY BE
PUBLISHED IF IT INCLUDED A DISCLAIMER OF NATO ASSOCIATION WITH
VIEWS EXPRESSED, AND PROVIDED THE ECONOMIC DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY
COULD BE REDRAFTED TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM OF INACCURATE
DATA AND STATEMENTS.

8. SUGGESTION OF US REP (MCAULIFFE) WAS ACCEPTED THAT THE ENTIRE
QUESTION BE DEALT WITH IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, AND THAT THE
COUNCIL RETURN TO THE SUBJECT ONLY IF SOME UNSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM
DEVELOPED.

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RUMSFELD

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